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It wouldn't be a major sporting event without politicians getting into the act.

Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich struck a friendly wager Tuesday with his Indiana counterpart, Mitch Daniels.

If the Colts win the Super Bowl, Blagojevich has to box up and send to Indianapolis Lou Malnati's deep dish pizza, Eli's cheesecake and treats from Illinois Nut and Candy in Skokie, which bills itself as the largest kosher candy shop in the Midwest.

Proving his skills as a negotiator aren't limited to the state budget, Blagojevich got Daniels to promise to send no fewer than a dozen different Hoosier-made items, including shrimp cocktail, popcorn and bottled water, should the Bears win.

The governor's second-in-command, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, snared a pair of 1985 Bears for a Chicago news conference encouraging children to write valentines to wounded war veterans soldiers serving overseas. Quarterback Jim McMahon and his wide receiver, Dennis McKinnon, turned out to show their support.

"Whether you're a soldier or a former athlete, we all love mail," said McKinnon, whose brother is a retired war veteran.

The effort is part of Operation Support Our Troops, which Naperville military mom Debi Rickert started in her living room four years ago. Rickert said 50 boxes of valentines will go out later this week, but that it's not too late for children to send in their valentines. More information is available at operationhomefront.org.

In the nation's capital, Democratic U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky of Evanston and Republican Mark Kirk of Highland Park, co-sponsored a resolution honoring Bears coach Lovie Smith and his Colts counterpart Tony Dungy for becoming the first black head coaches to make it to the Super Bowl.

“Lovie embodies the Bears tradition of tough, hard-nosed football that has defined the organization since its founding in 1919. As the Bears’ 19th head coach, Lovie joins coaching greats like Mike Ditka and George Halas as leaders of the Monsters of the Midway,” Kirk said on the House floor.